



## Pedestrianisation and Greening of QED and Park Drive – Fact Sheet

As part of a long-term plan to address the dominance of vehicles and to provide more green space, the draft Plan of Management proposes to work towards the long-term goal of pedestrianising Queen Elizabeth Drive (QED) Car Park.

### WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL INVOLVE?

The proposal is long-term and subject to further feasibility studies and funding. If implemented, it would create 15 per cent more green and recreation space, and make Bondi Park and Bondi Beach safer and more enjoyable for pedestrians. It would involve pedestrianising Queen Elizabeth Drive and relocating the current parking spaces to a new underground car park at the rear of the Pavilion (along Park Drive). The top of the underground car park would be roofed over with green space.

An underground car park of approximately two to three storeys would be built utilising the existing slope behind Bondi Pavilion, with a green roof concealing it. This would ensure there would be no reduction in parking at Bondi Beach, where demand for parking is high. Some surface parking (on ground) would be kept towards the northern end of Park Drive to allow mobility parking or people staying for shorter periods, with direct access to the park.

Council would also investigate the feasibility of incorporating the Parks Yard into the underground car park. The Parks Yard currently exists as temporary buildings and structures behind the Bondi Surf Bathers' Life Saving Club building. The Works yard is where Council staff and equipment are currently based for the essential work of cleaning and maintaining Bondi Beach and Bondi Park.

In the Interim Plan, Council's Parks Yard remains in its current location (at the back of the Surf Club) and is upgraded to accommodate the beach rake and improved staff amenities. The building provides a small footprint, limited approximately to that of the present Parks Yard.



*An artist's impression of the green roof over the underground car park.*

### HOW DID THE PROPOSAL COME ABOUT?

In the first round of consultation on the Plan of Management in October and November 2012 people told us that the Queen Elizabeth Drive Car Park was an eyesore and needed to be safer for pedestrians. There was also a call for more green space and shade.

In collaboration with independent design experts, Council established that replacing the Queen Elizabeth Drive and Park Drive car parks with an underground car park could address this feedback. The proposal was incorporated into draft concepts and directions. In the latest round of consultation, 60 per cent of 900 respondents (540 people) said they supported the idea, with only 22 per cent in opposition (198 people). The remaining 18 per cent of people were neutral or did not indicate an opinion. As a result this proposal has been included in the draft Plan of Management.

### WHEN WOULD THE CAR PARK BE BUILT?

The proposal to pedestrianise Queen Elizabeth Drive Car Park, replace parking on Park Drive with green space and build an underground car park is a long-term project, which is subject to further investigation and funding.

If the proposal is adopted into the final Bondi Park, Beach and Pavilion Plan of Management, Council would undertake detailed feasibility studies, including costings and design works with geotechnical and engineering advice. If deemed feasible, funding would then be sought and a decision made on whether to progress the proposal.

### IS IT POSSIBLE TO BUILD THE CAR PARK?

#### HOW WOULD COUNCIL DEAL WITH ANY CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS?

Initial studies of the land suggest an underground car park is possible. Detailed geotechnical and engineering studies would confirm the size and type of car park that is possible, the likely cost and construction impacts.

If the car park progressed, Council would work with the construction company to minimise any impacts during construction. Regular communication would occur in the lead up to and during construction.

## WHAT IS COUNCIL DOING TO ENCOURAGE MORE SUSTAINABLE FORMS OF TRANSPORT?

Parking is a challenging issue in Bondi, where demand is high. As a result, Council is not in a position to reduce car parking, but has incorporated a number of measures into the draft Plan of Management which encourage more sustainable forms of transport.

These include:

- promoting cycling by supporting cycle path connections and providing bike parking
- supporting planning investigations to continue the light rail connection from Bondi Junction to the beach
- ensuring information on public transport and connections is readily available and promoted.

## SOME RESIDENTS HAVE RAISED CONCERNS WITH THE PROPOSAL. HOW HAVE THESE CONCERNS BEEN ADDRESSED?

As mentioned previously, 60 per cent of the 900 submissions received in the latest round of consultation supported pedestrianising QED Car Park, to improve amenity and provide more green space.

Some community members told us they were concerned the proposal would make the beach less accessible, by preventing them from dropping off and picking up or waxing their surfboards.

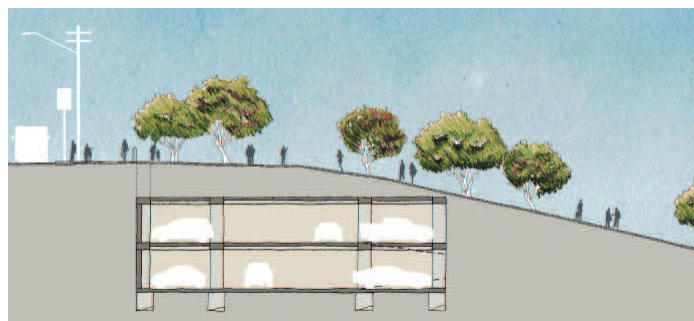
In response to that feedback, the draft Plan of Management provides for investigating a drop off and pick up zone for surfers, and the possibility of a dedicated area for surfers to wash or wax their boards.

To ensure the community can continue to enjoy a protected and close view of the beach, facilities including seating will be built alongside the existing promenade, under Queen Elizabeth Drive.

## WOULD THE UNDERGROUND CAR PARK INCREASE CONGESTION AT BONDI?

There is no reason why congestion should increase. The plan would enable the area currently occupied by the Queen Elizabeth Drive Car Park to be pedestrianised and the width reduced to give back more green space to the park.

It is reasonably likely that the final car park would end up with more than one entry/exit, or an entry in one place and an exit elsewhere. The location of the entry and exit points are not at all decided yet. There are a number of options which would be considered in the detailed studies.



Concept section through the underground car park and new parkland over to the rear of the Pavilion

## WILL THERE BE CHANGES IN THE MEANTIME?

In the interim, Council is proposing to keep Queen Elizabeth Drive open for car parking but the area in front of Bondi Pavilion will be pedestrianised, as a trial.

To facilitate this, Council will conduct a trial by providing two-way travel on each side of the Pavilion, with turning areas to allow access into and out of Queen Elizabeth Drive to Campbell Parade. If the trial is successful this arrangement will be made permanent until, if and when the underground car park is constructed.

## WHAT IS THE PROCESS FROM HERE?

You have one last opportunity to comment on what is proposed in the draft plan and its action plan before they are both finalised.

Updates will be provided on the Council's website: **[www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/bondipom](http://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/bondipom)**

Following this final stage of consultation, Council will consider all feedback received and finalise the Plan of Management.

## HOW CAN I MAKE A SUBMISSION?

If you wish to make a submission, please visit **[haveyoursaywaverley.com.au](http://haveyoursaywaverley.com.au)** or email **[bondipom@waverley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bondipom@waverley.nsw.gov.au)**.

Submissions can also be made in writing to the attention of **Bianca Simpson, PO Box 9, Bondi Junction 1355**.

## WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

More information can be found at **[www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/bondipom](http://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/bondipom)**.

You can also contact Council on **(02) 9369 8000** or email **[bondipom@waverley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bondipom@waverley.nsw.gov.au)**